



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery
434th Field Artillery Brigade
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-6204



Commander, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery

1 October 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, home of the Field Artillery. My name is Captain Vinh Q. Bui and I'm the commander of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery Regiment. I'm informing you that your Soldier has arrived safely and has begun Basic Combat Training here in the 434 Field Artillery Brigade.

We are extremely proud your Soldier has volunteered to join a time honored profession of service to our Nation in the United States Army. The Army is fortunate to have extremely patriotic, well qualified, and highly motivated individuals volunteer to join our team.

Over the next nine weeks your Soldier will begin the transformation from a civilian to a Soldier in the United States Army. Your Soldier will learn the basic Soldier skills that are required to fight and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be strenuous and demanding.

The tasks your Soldier will perform develops the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army. Your Soldier will conduct physical training daily to build physical strength and conditioning and also instill teamwork, pride, and enthusiasm in themselves and their unit. Your Soldier will learn in great detail military customs, courtesies, and traditions as well as policies and procedures on how Soldiers conduct themselves as members of the military team.

Additionally, they will learn how to engage the enemy with a rifle, learn how to care for their buddy using first aid, learn how to navigate with a map and a compass, all the while immersed in an environment of the seven Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage; it is these values that shape who and what we are as Soldiers and warriors.

The cadre and Drill Sergeants who will be training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals, genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of each Soldier. We consider our Soldiers to be the most important asset of the Army's future.

Your Soldier had the opportunity to call home during the first week of Basic Combat Training but phone privileges will be extremely limited for the next few weeks. Later in training your Soldier will have the privilege to use the phone on weekends, primarily Sunday afternoons.

I do encourage you to write to your Soldier. A little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way in keeping the Soldier engaged and motivated.

While packages are allowed **please do not send** medication of any kind, food items, magazines, weapons/knives, clothing, or other “contraband” items (electronics, tobacco products, candy, etc...). All boxes are opened by the addressee, but checked for contraband items.

Send mail to:

PVT/PFC/SPC (your soldier’s last, first name)

6007 Rothwell Street

79th FA BN, Charlie BTRY, (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th) PLT

Fort Sill, OK 73503-6204

I highly encourage you to attend the Family Day activities on **4 Dec 2014** at *10:00 a.m.*, and Graduation on **5 Dec 2014** at *10:00 a.m.* We will send out a detailed graduation information packet with maps, times, and locations by week five of your Soldiers’ training. You can also find information about Ft. Sill and the Lawton area at the Chamber of Commerce website: <http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com/index.php?pr=Lodging>. There is also great information on the 434th FA BDE website at: <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-79/1-79c.html>. Family and friends will have the opportunity to spend time with their Soldier after both Family Day and Graduation so please plan to spend a couple days in the local area.

Please do not hesitate to contact the battery with any critical concerns regarding your Soldier. You can ask for me, **CPT Vinh Q. Bui** or the Battery First Sergeant, 1SG Joel M. Molyneaux and our telephone number is (580) 442-1324/6/58. If a true emergency arises at home i.e. serious injury, illness, or worse of an immediate family member (spouse, parent, in-law, sibling, or child) please call the American Red Cross (877) 272-7337 in order to quickly get the message to the unit and the Soldier.

Finally, we’re on Facebook; search for “**Charlie Battery 1-79 Basic Combat Training**”. Weekly updates and some photos will be uploaded. I look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier’s graduation. Thank you for the support of your Soldier!

PEACE THROUGH VICTORY!



VINH Q. BUI
CPT, FA
Commanding

Frequently Asked Questions / Concerns

-I have not heard from my Soldier in a few days.

We try to give Soldiers an opportunity to call home on Sundays after completion of their third week (Red Phase). This is dependent on time and is a privilege, not a right. Training and administrative requirements take priority. Most Sundays, Soldiers should have an opportunity to call home. Just because you may not receive a call does not mean they didn't call someone.

-I have sent mail to my Soldier which they have not received / my Soldier has sent mail that has not arrived.

The mail system for Basic training runs much slower than the typical civilian mail system. After arriving at the Post Office on Ft. Sill mail will be picked up and delivered to our higher headquarters and eventually picked up by the Battery. This usually adds a few days to the delivery time.

-My Soldier has not gotten paid.

All finance issues can be resolved by the Soldier and his platoon Drill Sergeants. Following the first pay period the Drill Sergeants will identify issues with Soldiers' pay. Soldiers need to bring up issues so it can be resolved efficiently.

-How do I get tickets to Graduation / how many people can come to my Soldier's Graduation?

The Graduation ceremony is currently scheduled for Sheridan Theater on Post. There are no assigned seats, so no tickets are needed. Also, there is a limit on space available, everyone is welcome to attend, but space is limited.

-I plan on coming to Graduation; can I get a list of hotels in the area and directions to Graduation?

As mentioned above I will be sending out a second letter as we get closer to Graduation with pertinent information about the event. Also use the website located in this letter. **We will not make reservations for you.**

-When will I be able to see my Soldier at Graduation time?

There will be two opportunities to spend time with your Soldier. The day prior to Graduation is our Family Day demonstration. At the conclusion of this demonstration Soldiers are given a limited day pass to spend with their family. Again, pass is a privilege, not a right. Soldiers must remain in the Lawton/Ft. Sill area and return to the Battery by 7:00 pm. Again, following the Graduation ceremony Soldiers will be given another day pass with the same restrictions as the Family Day pass and dependent on their ship time.

-It's the first time my Soldier has been away and I just wanted to see how they are doing / make sure everything is okay.

We train over 200 Soldiers each Basic Training class. The schedule is very demanding for both the trainees and the cadre training them. We truly do not have the resources or time available to provide individual updates on Soldiers. If there is an emergency or a Soldier is hospitalized we will contact their family.